

MINUTE of MEETING of COUNCIL of
THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE
ASSOCIATION held in the ICE
RINK, GLOVER STREET, PERTH, at
2.00 p.m. on THURSDAY, 22nd
AUGUST, 1996.

PRESENT: Messrs. A.M. Beattie, J.P. Deuchar, B. Doig, D. Harley, J.B. Hollywood, V. Lumb, J.M. Marshall, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, I. Melrose, J.L. Milne, A.B. Pullar, J.O. Robertson and D.Y. Stewart, along with Mr. R.D. Hunter, the Secretary.

CHAIRMAN: The Association President, Mr. D.Y. Stewart, occupied the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs. D.H. Lindsay and D.W. Veitch.

(1) MINUTES: The Minute of Meeting of Council of 18th June, 1996 was taken as read, approved and signed.

(2) MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Members Book: The Secretary reported that he had received a promise from the Stationers that he would receive the remaining printed indices for the Members Book by the following day which would enable the book to be distributed to all Association members. He added that to date approximately 20 copies of the Members Book had been distributed.

(b) Association Membership: The Secretary confirmed that he had written a letter of condolence to the widow of the late Mr. David Maxwell and that a letter of thanks had been received from Mrs. Maxwell.

The Secretary reported that Mr. William P. Balfour had been duly proposed for membership of the Association and that accordingly Association Membership had been granted to Mr. Balfour. The Secretary added that the current Membership Roll was now 89.

(c) Arbitration Rules: The Secretary reported that a meeting of the NASPM/SPTA Arbitration Rules Working Party had been held on the previous Monday when final amendments to the draft Arbitration Rules had been agreed. He added that at the meeting amendments had been approved to Guidance Notes which he had prepared and that these amendments were being incorporated into a fresh draft. Mr. Hunter stated that it was the hope of the Working Party that the proposed Arbitration Rules and Arbitration Guidelines would be finalised without the necessity of a further meeting of the Working Party. Mr. Hunter confirmed that it was proposed by the Working Party that the Arbitration Rules and Guidelines be submitted for approval to the respective Councils of NASPM and SPTA at their meetings in November. It was agreed by Council to invite the NASPM members of the Working Party to be present at the November meeting of Council of this Association during discussion of the Arbitration Rules and Guidelines.

(d) 1997 World Potato Congress: The Secretary reported that only one Association member had expressed interest in booking a space on the Association's suggested Package for attendance at

the 1997 World Potato Congress in South Africa. Council resolved that in view of the lack of interest arrangements for the Association's Package should be discontinued.

(e) Seed Potato Advisory Committee Minutes: The Secretary reported that he had not, as yet, received a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee held on 9th May, 1996. He added, however, that there was a meeting of that Committee to be held on 4th September and that accordingly the Minutes of the previous meeting would be issued very shortly.

(f) Small Ware: The Secretary confirmed that he had written to The Scottish Office with Council's comments on the draft Report prepared by the Agricultural Departments entitled "Sale of Uncertified Seed Potatoes (Small Ware)".

(g) Conditions of Purchase: The Secretary reported that a meeting would be arranged in the near future of the Association's Conditions Sub-Committee when possible amendments to the Conditions of Purchase would be considered. At the same meeting consideration would be given to the amendments required to be carried out to the Association's Conditions in the event of formal Arbitration Rules being adopted.

- (3) REVOCATION OF POTATO MARKETING SCHEME: Council considered the Consultation Paper issued by The Scottish Office "On the Proposal to Establish a Potato Industry Development Council for Great Britain". It was observed that most of the contents of the Paper had already been agreed by this Association through the JCC. The Chairman pointed out that the Paper appeared to be inviting fresh consideration to the possibility of the GBPO being funded from the outset by a Tonnage Based Levy at the first point of sale rather than there being a dual Levy comprising an Area Levy on Growers and a Tonnage Levy on other sectors of the Industry. After a detailed debate it was a majority decision of Council to propose to The Scottish Office that there should be a single Levy at the first point of sale and no Tonnage Levy. Council considered that the first priority of the GBPO should be towards promotional work to increase the consumption of potatoes and that Research and Development was a secondary priority. The Secretary was instructed to write to The Scottish Office to inform it of the views of Council.
- (4) SSPDC: Mr. Beattie gave a brief verbal report on the meeting of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council held on 25th June, 1996. He stated that SSPDC had considered the correspondence criticising the actions of Mr. John Bethell and Ms Sue Hair which this Association's Secretary had, on the instructions of Council, sent to Mr. John Bethell. Mr. Beattie added that Mr. Bethell had been reprimanded for his actions and had been instructed to write a letter of apology to the Merchants involved and to ensure that there was no re-occurrence of such an incident. Mr. Beattie stated that the rest of the meeting of SSPDC had been largely taken up with discussion regarding the winding up of SSPDC. He stated that this matter would be discussed further at the next meeting of SSPDC scheduled to be held on the following day but that the present plans were for SSPDC to be wound up by June, 1997.
- (5) BROWN ROT: Council considered the terms of the draft Brown Rot Control Directive which had been previously circulated to Council members. Council resolved to accept the terms of the Directive on the assumption that the Scientists at The Scottish

Office and SASA were safeguarding the interests of the Scottish Potato Industry.

- (6) SEED POTATOES - PROTECTED REGIONS: The Secretary reported that Mr. Stewart and he had attended a meeting with representatives of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland and SSPDC on 15th August when Veronica Magennis of SSPDC had reported that arrangements were being made for various seed potato producing countries in Europe to meet in France on 10th September, 1996. She had stated that the countries involved were Holland, France, Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland, Sweden, Finland and possibly Germany. She had also stated that the principal reason for the meeting was to consider the formation of a European Seed Potato Group but she had added that one of the items which would be discussed at the meeting would be Protected Regions. Ms Magennis had stated that the Nordic countries and Ireland as well as Scotland were generally in favour of the re-introduction of Quarantine Controls for the Protected Regions but that the other countries were less sympathetic. Mr. Hunter added that it had been suggested that at the first meeting on 10th September the possible re-introduction of Quarantine Controls would be raised, but not vigorously pursued, in order to sound out the attitude of the hostile countries so that a strategy could be developed for raising the matter more forcibly at a later meeting of the Group. Mr. Melrose expressed concern that the matter was not to be pursued vigorously at the first meeting. Mr. Stewart stated that the whole matter would be discussed further at the meeting of SSPDC to be held the following day. He added that at the meeting of SSPDC the UK representation at the meeting on 10th September would be agreed.
- (7) SEED POTATO CLASSIFICATION SCHEME: Mr. Stewart reported that it was the decision of the President's Sub-Committee to convey the following comments to The Scottish Office:-
- (a) Seed Potato Labels: The Scottish Office is to be recommended to ensure that its new computer programme allows for the possible introduction at a later date of "generation" numbers being stated on seed potato labels. The Scottish Office is also to be reminded of this Association's previous request that it gives consideration to seed labels being valid for two consecutive calendar months, namely, the month during which they are issued and the following month, rather than the present system of marking them with a specific date of issue.
- (b) Tolerances: The Scottish Office is to be asked to introduce a separate tolerance for Ground Keepers at a level similar to that presently allowed for Blackleg. The Scottish Office is also to be requested to alter the Severe Mosaic tolerance for the second inspection for Super Elite to make it the same level as for the first inspection.
- (c) Blackleg: The Sub-Committee had considered that the International image of Scottish seed potatoes would be enhanced if a Tuber Test for Blackleg was carried out at the time of loading. The Sub-Committee had considered that such a test will be developed in the foreseeable future. Accordingly, The Scottish Office is to be requested to keep in mind that in due course the Blackleg Field Inspections may be replaced with Blackleg Tuber Testing.
- (d) Fees for Growing Crop and Tuber Inspections: The Scottish Office is to be informed that the Industry cannot afford and will therefore resist any increases in the Statutory Fees for

Growing Crop and Tuber Inspections.

(e) Access to Computer: The Scottish Office is to be requested to make provision to permit individuals in the Potato Industry to access, direct via their own PC's, non-sensitive information (e.g. the Register and other statistical information) stored on the Department's Computer which is presently made available manually to the Industry.

- (8) ANNUAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: The Secretary was instructed to make the arrangements for the 1996 Annual Council Elections. The Secretary reported that Council members due to retire this year by rotation are Messrs. A.P. Bayne, A.M. Beattie, J.P. Deuchar, B. Doig, J. MacFarlane and J.M. Swinton.
- (9) RUCIP RULES: The Secretary reported that a member of the Association had brought to his attention advice given by the NASPM to its members with regard to respective use of Association Conditions and RUCIP Rules. Mr. Hunter stated that he was awaiting a copy of the up-to-date RUCIP Rules before making a recommendation to members of this Association.
- (10) CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary referred to correspondence received since the last meeting of Council, namely:-
From The Scottish Office under the headings:-
Proposed new Imported Food Regulations to replace the Imported Food Regulations 1984 and the Imported Food (Scotland) Regulations 1985;
Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2081/92 on the Protection of Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs;
Consumer Research on Quantative Ingredient Declarations on Food Labels;
Mycotoxins - EC Permitted Levels.
From Pesticides Safety Directorate under the following headings:-
Labelling and Risk Management Strategies for Pesticides and Terrestrial Non-Target-Arthropods;
Label Phrases regarding the risk to Honeybees;
Annulment of "Uniform Principles" Directive;
Implementation of the "Authorisation" Directive (91/414/EEC);
UK Methods for estimation of Dietary Intakes of Pesticides Residues.
From the Patent Office under the heading:-
Legal Protection of Biotechnological Inventions - Commission Proposal COM(95)661 Final.
- The Secretary confirmed that copies of any of these letters can be obtained from him by members on request.
- (11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held at Perth Ice Rink at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 24th October, 1996.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.